DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sivasubramonia Pillai, I have already expressed my view on the subject of grazing lands for cattle and on the subject of removing the agricultural farm. Of the remaining points, will you kindly select four of these which you consider most necessary and communicate a list to the Chief Secretary. I will have them examined.

112. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. N. K. S. KRISHNASWAMI KARAYALAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Shencotta*) dealt with the following subjects :—

(1) Construction of pucca bridges over Hanumanadi at Aikudi and Sambavarvadakara. The necessity for a bridge at Aikudi was urged before the Assembly at the 22nd and 23rd sessions, but it was stated that an estimate had been called for. The proposal had not, however, progressed beyond that. The necessity for the bridge had become keener with the opening of the Tenkasi-Virudanagar railway. Equally important was the construction of a bridge at Sambavarvadakara. The construction of this bridge could not wait, as Government supposed, till the completion of the bridge at Aikudi.

(2) Holding of agricultural conferences every year. This subject was brought forward at the 21st session of the Assembly, when Government expressed their opinion in favour of it. But no conferences were actually held till now.

(3) The necessity for the improvement of the Aikudi-Kilangad road and the opening of an approach road to the above road from the Valliammapuram railway station. There was no easy access from the new railway station at Valliammapuram to the adjacent places. People alighting at the station were therefore put to considerable inconvenience. The station should first be connected with Kilangad and Aikudi by a road. For that the Ayikudi-Kilangad road running through Kilangad should be connected with the station by an approach road. Secondly, the Ayikudi-Kilangad road was not in good condition. The road should be improved.

(4) The necessity for the opening of an agricultural school and a weaving school in the taluk. Agriculture and weaving formed the chief occupations of the people of the taluk and it was necessary that they should be given up to date instruction in both.

DEWAN'S REPLY; Mr. Krishnaswami Karayalar, in regard to the bridge over Hanumannadi at Aikudi and Samburvadakara, the Chief Engineer has now received the hydraulic details upon which he is going to make calculations for a bridge and the matter is under examination.

In regard to Aikudi-Kilangad road, I have nothing to add to what I said last year on the subject beyond saying that the question of a road is under consideration.

Government have already opened an agricultural school at Alwaye and one more will shortly be opened at Kottarakara. Another one is also under contemplation. I do not consider that it is possible to open one at Shencotta.

So too in regard to the weaving school. The Director of Industries who enquired into the matter found that the only handicap from which the industry is suffering is the lack of circulating capital. There are rules under which industrial loans can be granted. If you apply under these rules, I have no doubt you will get whatever help is possible. In regard to the two schools, you mentioned, if they are opened by private agencies, Government might consider the question of a grant.

113. Needs of the Shencotta town.

MR. N. K. S. KRISHNASWAMI KARAYALAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Shencotta*) spoke on the following needs of the Shencotta town:—

(1) Necessity for the construction of a Satrom near the Shencotta railway station. The accommodation in the Shencotta railway station was very poor, particularly for third class passengers. The station was growing in importance. A Satrom should therefore be provided near the station for the comfort of passengers.

(2) Desirability of removing toddy and arrack shops from the town limits. The arrack shop at Shencotta was situated just near the court building and the toddy shop a furlong away from it. Since Shencotta was on the frontier, people flocked into these shops from the neighbouring British Indian villages. As a result, the places

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

were crowded both day and night and it gave extreme annoyance and disturbance to the people in the neighbourhood. Immediate steps should therefore be taken for removing the shops to some place outside the town limits.

(3) Necessity for the re-survey of the minor circuit areas of the Shencotta town on acceptance of the contribution of a quarter of the expenses by the municipal council. The inaccuracies in the survey and settlement records relating to the minor circuit areas of Shencotta were brought to the notice of Government and Government ordered a resurvey so early as 1915. The immediate necessity of the resurvey was again urged at the 21st and 22nd sessions of the Assembly. The municipal council was thereupon called upon to contribute 50 per cent of the cost, but they agreed to pay a quarter of the expenses. The proposal was since abandoned by Government. What Government now proposed to do was only a street survey. But this, though a necessary measure, was not adequate in itself. Government should take up the question of re-survey as a whole and sanction it, accepting for the purpose the contribution of a quarter of the expenses agreed to by the municipal council.

(4) Removal of the cremation ground near the forest depot from the present site to a site far away from the inhabited areas in the town. Apart from the suffocating smoke emitted by the burning corpses, all the ashes and bones left on the ground were washed down into the river near by. This was a great nuisance to the public. But the municipality was not rich enough to acquire a new cremation ground. Government should therefore render the municipality all help in the matter.

(5) Verandahs should be constructed all round the girls' school building, or in the alternative, waiting sheds should be put up in the school compound so that pupils might find comfortable accommodation either on the verandahs or in the sheds till the school was opened.

(6) There was only one woman teacher in the girls' school; all the other teachers were men. More women teachers should be appointed in the school.

(7) The immediate sinking of a well in the English school compound and the early acquisition of lands required for the extension of the compound. Though orders had been issued for sinking a well in the English school compound, no work was yet begun. So also no steps were taken for extending the premises of the school, though the matter was brought to the notice of Government several times.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishnaswami Karayalar, in regard to the construction of a Satrom at the Shencotta railway station, there is no Travancore land half a mile near it. It is a matter in which you can move the Railway Agent.

You say there is no verandah to the school building, and that the girls have got to wait in the compound till such time as the school is opened. I shall ask the Director of Public Instruction to issue instructions for the school premises being opened quarter of an hour earlier.

The Chief Engineer expects to sink a well in the course of a few days.

The acquisition of lands for extending the school compound is under consideration.

As regards the replacing of the male teachers in the local girls' school, the Director of Public Instruction is instituting an enquiry into the matter.

The removal of the burning ground is a matter for the municipality of which I observe you are a member. Therefore you may move the matter there.

As to the removal of toddy shops, I have commented upon similar propositions and it cannot be dealt with in isolation of the general policy.

In regard to the resurvey of the Shencotta town, the Government have said that it will do so if the municipality contributes to meet half the cost. But your council is not prepared to do so, and therefore, you must go without it.

114. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.

MR. C. J. VARGHESE (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group 1*) said that till recently the needs of Shertallai were being neglected by Government. But Government had latterly begun to evince some interest in the taluk. One could not, however, be too sure that everything which was necessary for the taluk would be done by Government spontaneously. A local board should therefore be established in the taluk, consisting of the Assembly members for the taluk for the year, the Legislative

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly